

SENATE BILL 967

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 24, Part 6, relative to alcohol and drug
abuse counselors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-24-604, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) Only persons who are licensed by the board as alcohol or drug abuse counselors may represent themselves as licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors or hold themselves out to the public as being licensed by means of using a title on signs, mailboxes, address plates, letterheads, announcements, telephone listings, business cards, or other instruments of professional identification.

(b) No one shall hold themselves out to the public by a title or description of services incorporating the words "licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor" unless they are licensed by the board; provided, however, nothing shall prohibit those persons from stating or using the educational degrees they may have obtained.

(c) Nothing in this part shall be construed as permitting persons licensed as alcohol or drug abuse counselors to engage in the practice of a licensed psychologist, licensed psychological examiner, licensed senior psychological examiner, certified psychological assistant, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, or psychiatric nurse.

(d) Persons licensed as alcohol and drug abuse counselors shall not be authorized by this part to dispense or prescribe drugs.

(e) Nothing in this part shall be construed to:

(1) Constrict or limit the practice of medicine, the certification and licensing of social workers, the licensing of nurses, the licensing of psychologists, or the licensing of professional counselors and marriage and family therapists; or

(2) Prevent qualified members of the professions described in subsection (c) from:

(A) Advertising that they diagnose and treat alcohol and drug disorders within the scope of their respective professions; or

(B) Actually diagnosing and treating alcohol and drug disorders within the scope of their respective professions.

(f) This section shall not apply to persons who are preparing for the practice of alcohol and drug abuse counseling under qualified supervisors in a training institution or facility or supervisory arrangement pursuant to rules promulgated by the board and the persons are designated by such titles as "alcohol and drug abuse counseling intern," "alcohol and drug abuse counseling trainee," or other designations that clearly indicate a training status.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.